

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 49 of 1876.

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 2nd December 1876.

THE *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 19th November, is thankful to Government for the sentiments of a late resolution, in which the officers of the Public Works Department are directed to utilise the articles of indigenous manufacture for the purposes of railways in India. The views expressed in this article are the same as those noticed in paragraph 39 of our report for 18th November.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
November 19th, 1876.

2. The same paper has the following in one of its editorial paragraphs:—There is a great difference of opinion noticed on the subject of the execution of decrees of the Small Cause Courts of Calcutta and other presidency towns. The first point of contention is, whether, on the execution of any such decree by means of a civil court in the mofussil, immoveable property can be attached; and the second relates to the realization of rents from tiled huts. Government should early remove the difficulty in the law on this subject; and thus put an end to the large amount of litigation which is hereby occasioned.

HOWRAH HITAKARI.

3. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 22nd November, notices a fearful outbreak of cholera in Manickgunge and the adjacent villages. Government is besought to send medical aid without delay.

BISHWA SUHRID,
November 22nd, 1876.

4. Adverting to the necessity of thoroughly reforming the Police Department, the same paper remarks that this object will never be attained, until educated and honest men are offered sufficient inducement to take service therein. The idea, cherished by the Lieutenant-Governor, of securing the end aimed at, by increasing the salaries of the subordinate officers of the department, and which His Honor regrets cannot be carried out for want of funds, is exceedingly erroneous. Higher pay to the present members of the force will rather give greater scope for corruption and bribery; for they can never be expected to give up the habits contracted during the earlier period of their service. As to the alleged want of funds, the difficulty will be easily overcome if the needless post of Assistant Superintendent is abolished and the salaries of the District Superintendents reduced.

BISHWA SUHRID.

5. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 23rd November, makes the following observations on Act VII (B.C.) of 1876:—Rumour is rife as to the object of this Act. According to some, it is expected to furnish Government with an opportunity for resuming all revenue-free lands, subverting the permanent settlement and enhancing the land revenue. No man of sense, however, will impute any such motives to Government, the chief object of the Act being to prevent all disputes and frauds; though as a matter of fact, the State will derive some profit from fees, and petty landlords will be ruined. The Act will at first probably give occasion for an increase of false litigation; for intriguing persons will not hesitate to put themselves

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 23rd, 1876.

down as proprietors of estates, with which perhaps they have no connection; but ultimately it will doubtless be productive of highly beneficial consequences.

BHARAT MIHIE,
November 23rd, 1876.

6. The same paper, in an article on the law relating to landlord and tenant, gives the substance of Sir Richard Temple's minute and speech on the rent law; and on a calm consideration of the facts of the case, thinks that there is no need for altering the present law. The editor promises to continue the article.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
November 23rd, 1876.

7. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 23rd November, contains letters from half-a-dozen correspondents writing from different parts of the country, all deprecating the need of holding the minor durbars in various districts, on the occasion of the assumption of the Imperial title by the Queen; and suggesting that the money proposed to be spent on them should be laid out in constructing works of public utility. The present occasion is really inauspicious for such pageantry.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
November 24th, 1876

8. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 24th November, directs the attention of the local authorities to the inconvenience the inhabitants are put to for want of a good road in Janye, a flourishing village in the district of Hooghly.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

9. Another correspondent of the same paper refers to the inconvenience and expense to which the people in Bengal will be subjected from the operation of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876, in their being required to obtain the needful information and have their estates registered according to the law. Some will also suffer considerably from there having been no accurate survey of their lands, of which they will be required to note the precise extent.

PRATIKAR,
November 24th, 1876.

10. The *Pratikár*, of the 24th November, notices, with surprise, the various evasions to which the Anglo-Indian Press has been obliged to resort, in their attempt to ignore the claims of the children of the soil to hold superior appointments in the public service. Sometimes the charge of dishonesty is brought against them, and anon a want of confidence of the people in their fellow-countrymen. Mr. Cockerell, again, has stated in the Legislative Council that they do not possess any experience of the country and have no sympathy with the people. All this is passing strange.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
November 24th, 1876.

11. In its opening article, the *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 24th November, dwells on the inhumanity of the cruel practice of flogging criminals, which obtains in this country. Cruel treatment has never proved a successful means of deterring offenders from crime, and should at once be discontinued.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
November 24th, 1876.

12. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 24th November, dwells on the ability and impartiality of Mr. Mackenzie, the worthy Magistrate of Moorshedabad, and asks Government to retain him there for a long time.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
November 25th, 1876.

13. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 25th November, makes the following observations on the administration of Sir Richard Temple:—In his eagerness to please both Englishmen and natives, by means of a skilful policy, Sir Richard Temple has become unpopular with both. It was not so, however, at first. By gradually removing the evils occasioned to the country by the ill-judged policy of Sir George Campbell, and by his mixing in native society, he enjoyed a large degree of popularity, and the confidence of the subjects during the earlier period of his administration. But these acts were only meant to prepare the popular mind for his subsequent measures. The Municipal bill, which even Sir George Campbell failed to introduce, has been

passed into law. Thus encouraged, he has gone on, pleasing the members of the Civil Service, in the notorious cases of Kirkwood of Chittagong and Clay of Rajshahye and in several other instances. For these reasons the present Lieutenant-Governor has become exceedingly unpopular.

14. The same paper observes that, for want of proper supervision, the objects aimed at by the Acts and Regulations of Government are but rarely attained. Thus the punchayet system, instead of proving beneficial, as it should, has in many villages been the cause of much oppression.

15. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 25th November, remarks that the discontents of the civilians with their present position is not in the least justifiable. They are allowed handsome salaries and possess considerable power and many privileges. It is doubtful whether, if they had remained in England, they would have obtained even a fourth of what they earn in India. All real administrative power is in their hands, and they possess a monopoly of the superior appointments in the public service. Besides this, they enjoy a prestige and an exemption from punishment which do not fall to the lot of natives.

16. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 26th November, has a lengthy editorial on the approaching durbar at Delhi. His observations are the same as those noticed in paragraph 36 of our report for 18th November, and in paragraph 9 of the last report.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 26th November, makes the following observations, in reference to the Opium Bill now before the Indian Legislative Council. The monopoly of any article of commerce is unnatural, and will always be fraught with injurious consequences. The British Government is not alone guilty in this respect;—the Mahomedans before them enjoyed the salt and opium monopolies. The Government, however, is seriously to be blamed for its indifference to the increasing injury done to the people by the extension of the poppy cultivation. We have repeatedly in these columns sought to direct attention to the fact that the constantly recurring famines in Behar are principally due to this cause; while for this same traffic, India must always remain ashamed and humiliated before China, whose inhabitants are ruined by the free use of the drug. The evil is now likely to assume a more serious aspect. In the present Bill it is proposed to store all opium in Government warehouses, where it will be exposed to sale. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce have justly objected to this provision of the Bill.

18. The *Soma Prakash*, of the 27th November, has the following in an editorial headed the "Government of India and the Editors of Newspapers":—Government is now carrying on a war with the Press as to those public measures which have failed to give satisfaction. The difference rests on the following grounds:—(1) Government makes everything a secret; (2) it wants to do as it pleases, in utter disregard of public opinion. A great agitation was made in Simla, from certain proceedings of the Government having appeared in the newspapers. The Lieutenant-Governor also made great efforts to discover the person who had communicated his resolution in the Kirkwood case to the *Hindoo Patriot*. To prevent such communications, stringent rules prohibiting the connection of public officers with the Press have been framed, and a resolution has also been recently made discouraging memorials by persons combined for any purpose. The reply given by Government to Mr. Knight's requisition, to have the papers in the Fennua and other cases published, has also been worthy of its despotic

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.
November 25th 1876.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
November 25th, 1876.

DACCA PRAKASH,
November 26th, 1876.

SADHARANI,
November 26th, 1876.

SOMA PRAKASH,
November 27th, 1876.

character. Such conduct on its part has exposed it to unceasing attacks from the newspapers. Before, however, condemning the rules, we shall see if such an attitude towards the Press is justifiable. The Government of India, once liberal and free, has become changed in its nature. Despotism has always prevailed in India; and its present Government, like those which preceded it, has become despotic. There is also another cause. Government seems to think that in this country, inhabited by a people who have no common interest, nay, whose interests rather clash with one another, it cannot, without the exercise of despotic power, successfully carry out its administrative operations. Hence this policy of making the proceedings a secret, which, if divulged, would only be productive of ill-will and discord. And thus is noticed the fact of a narrow despotism always at war with a free and liberal Press.

But in this respect Government has really very little ground for apprehension, and the present unsatisfactory state of things is entirely due to a want of clear and sound judgment. Government seems to think that its policy of maintaining secrecy is beneficial to public interests; but a little reflection will show that it is just the contrary and has produced universal discontent; nay more, even its well meant acts are regarded as the outcome of evil motives. It has in fact lost the confidence of the public by pursuing this policy. Nor is there any need of this procedure, save in connection with affairs entrusted to the Foreign Department. Government should publish everything which can safely be published, and allow the utmost latitude of discussion to the Press.

SOMA PRAKASH,
November 27th, 1876.

19. The same paper remarks that, then only will India start on its path of progress, when Government seeks to procure every article required for her use in the country itself. We are indeed glad to find that efforts are already made in this direction; but, to ensure success, persistent attention is needed. Natives should be taught arts and manufactures, and encouragement should be given to all manner of native enterprise. As in the case of articles of general utility, troops for the defence of India should be enlisted in the country itself, and Bengalis admitted into the military service. The rigors of the Penal Code, and the fact that no scope has for a long time past been given for the exercise of their physical strength, have well nigh extinguished the military instinct in them, which it behoves the Government to revive and develope. The fear that they will use their new-learnt art against the rulers is exceedingly idle. They are credited with intelligence; and they fully understand that they will only be the losers in any contest with the Government.

SOMA PRAKASH.

20. Commenting on a late resolution of Government on the emigration report, the same paper observes that before embarkation the coolies are lodged in a most scandalous fashion in the dépôts, in many of which men and women are obliged to sleep together for want of separate quarters. This fact, coupled with the low and unprincipled character of the recruiters and their agents, may well account for the cruelties which are practised on these helpless beings.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 28th, 1876

21. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 28th November, asks His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to send medical aid without delay to Garalgacha, Baluhati and adjacent villages in the Hooghly district, where the malarious fever is raging most violently.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
November 28th, 1876.

22. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the same date, draws the attention of the Calcutta police to the necessity of allotting additional European

constables to Chunam Gully and Khalasytollah, which are for the most part inhabited by low Mahomedans and "loafers." These desperate characters are frequently said to commit robberies on ignorant passers-by even in broad daylight.

23. In an article headed "Ought Hindustanis to be appointed as judges and magistrates?" the editor of the *Behár Bandhu*, after quoting the opinions of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Englishman* and *Daily News* on the subject, referring to the question raised by these papers, as to whether natives would prefer to have their cases decided by Europeans or their own countrymen, proceeds to say, that there was a time when the preference was in favour of the European, in consequence of native judges taking bribes or favouring their relations. That time, however, has passed away, and very few are now found given to these practices. But are the Europeans free from them? If they are, why did the Fuller case arise? It is asked whether the common people of Hindustan prefer European to native judges; and in reply, we ask whether there is any so inimical to his own country as to prefer a European to his own countryman? From varied and much experience in the mofussil we can confidently assert that the common people cannot open out their minds so fully or speak so plainly before a European as they can before a Hindustani Moonsif or Deputy Magistrate; and the reason is that some are timid, and others dread a misinterpretation of their meaning and sentiments if fully given. The fact of the matter is, that whilst a native official would understand the case at once as represented, it would need to be repeated four or five times ere a European could comprehend it. Again, a villager would not hesitate to give his evidence in his own customary dialect or idiom to a native magistrate, knowing full well that it would be understood; but he would speak in broken Hindi to a European, in order, as he thinks, to make himself better understood by the *sáhib*, whom he considers to be ignorant of the language. The *Pall Mall Gazette* speaks of what he hears, but has not seen; and who can blame him? Government should consider that since it has encouraged the education of the people, it also should give them employment suitable to their progress and qualification; and now that they have become competent to hold the higher posts in the service, these should be bestowed on them.

24. The editor of the *Qásid* commences an article on pauperism by saying that the method adopted in this country of giving alms to beggars is not an approved one. Strong and healthy men, who are well able to earn for themselves, receive help; whilst the lame and destitute die from want and consequent starvation. Why should those, who can and ought to work, be thus made lazy? They commit a great sin who encourage this practice. The editor recommends the establishment of poor-houses, such as are to be found in England, for the reception of the poor and incapables of the country. There are above 100,000 well-to-do persons in Patna, and if each of these gave but a pice, the sum thus accumulated would suffice for the support of all the poor in this city; and if our countrymen would but exert themselves in this matter, it would prove extremely beneficial to the country. First the large number of beggars, professional or otherwise, who are to be seen at every town would vanish; secondly, the really poor would then find the ready relief they want; and thirdly, our class of people would learn to labour and not adopt the profession of begging.

25. In its column of news, this paper refers to the proposed curtailment of the education grant; and in so doing remarks that this will necessarily lead to the abolition of several existing schools, involving in its course the dismissal of some who will suffer for no fault of their own. It is

BEHAR BANDHU,
November 22nd, 1876.

QÁSID,
November 27th, 1876.

QÁSID.

a matter of much surprise that the Government is preparing to waste lakhs of rupees on fire-works, &c, during the approaching Delhi durbar, and at the same time is meditating a great reduction in the Education Department, where we had hoped for advancement.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 2nd December 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 2nd December 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	" Bhárat Shramjibí"	Baráhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Bhádra, 1283 B. S.
2	" Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan ...	Weekly ...	18th & 25th November 1876.
3	" Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	19th November 1876.
4	" Sambád Bháskar"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
5	" Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
6	" Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
7	" Bhárat Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
8	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákiniá, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
9	" Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
10	" Education Gazette" ...	Hoochly ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
11	" Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
12	" Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
13	" Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
14	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
15	" Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
16	" Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
17	" Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
18	" Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
19	" Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
20	" Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	27th, 28th, & 30th November 1876.
21	" Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th to 30th November 1876.
22	" Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th to 29th ditto.
23	" Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	22nd November 1876.
24	" Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
25	" Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
26	" Qásid" (in Urdu) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.